



Brian and Penny say, “I do” on Valentine’s Day!

One thing about getting married on Valentine’s Day, it makes it easy to remember anniversaries. For Brian Rode and Penny Ross of Rockford, Michigan, their wedding in Aruba will be particularly memorable, as it was not only on that special day, but filled with surprises.

Jourella and Danny of the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, who Brian and Penny report made “everything easy,” arranged everything. From the Dutch paperwork required for the civil ceremony to a beautiful spiritual ceremony at sunset on the beach, they left Brian and Penny free to enjoy their holiday.

The couple had already planned this vacation for some time, but the first surprise came to Penny when Brian proposed on New Year’s Eve, and turned it into a wedding party/honeymoon. The Standhuis, the landmark building in Oranjestad where marriages take place, was also a great surprise, as they did not realize what a beautiful and elegant place it was in which to get married. It is definitely not one’s usual vision of a city hall office!

Friends Barry and Leslie Strang, who acted as the official witnesses for their marriage greeted Brian and Penny at the Stanhouse, but they were again surprised to find a reporter and photographer from THE NEWS waiting to record this special day. Aruban Official Betto Christiaans performed a heartfelt and beautiful ceremony, expediting his duties with joy and respect for the institution of marriage, which from the expressions on their faces obviously touched the couple deeply.

Therefore, for Brian and Penny, what they considered would have been a “mere formality” to getting married in Aruba turned out to be something very special, a Valentine’s Day memory to always treasure!